GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2941
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2017
Promotion of R&D in Steel Sector
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Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to set up Steel Research & Technology Mission of India (SRTMI) to facilitate joint collaborative research projects in iron and steel sector in the country and if so, the details thereof including the funds allocated/utilised for promotion of R&D projects during the last three years and the current year;
(b) whether the safeguard duty is proposed to be reduced to 10% from the current 20% and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) whether this move is to protect domestic industry from onslaught of cheap steel supplies (imports) from China amid a global glut and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the other steps taken by the Government to promote R&D projects in steel sector?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a)&(d): Ministry of Steel is facilitating an Industry driven institutional mechanism namely Steel Research & Technology Mission of India (SRTMI), to facilitate joint collaborative research projects in the iron & steel sector in India. The salient features of SRTMI are as under:

â€¢ SRTMI is an industry driven initiative which has been setup as a Registered Society wherein Ministry of Steel is a facilitator.
â€¢ SRTMI is governed and administered by a Governing Body comprising the steel CEOs, Domain Experts and a representative of Ministry of Steel.
â€¢ The executive functioning of SRTMI will be carried out by the Director, SRTMI, who will be assisted by a suitable/appropriate supporting structure. The selection of the Director is in progress.

Ministry of Steel is supplementing R&D efforts/ investment of the steel industry by providing financial assistance for specific R&D projects from Steel Development Fund and Government of India Fund. Besides specific R&D projects, Ministry of Steel is also facilitating several capacity building initiatives like Ministry of Steel Chair Professor, Ministry of Steel Scholarships, Centre of Excellences etc. to promote R&D in Indian steel sector.

Ministry of Steel is also actively participating in the Impacting Research Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT) & Uchchatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY) Schemes launched by MHRD. Under the IMRPINT Scheme 3 R&D projects with total cost of Rs. 11.05 crore have been approved with 50% funding from Ministry of Steel. Under the UAY scheme, 3 R&D projects have been approved with total cost of Rs. 10.09 crore with 25% funding from Ministry of Steel, in the year 2016-17.

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The allocated budget of Ministry of Steel for the purpose for the current year and the last 3 years from SDF and Government Fund is given below:

(in Rs. crore)

Sl.No	Year	Government Fund Allocation (RE)	Government Fund Utilisation	Steel Development Fund Allocation	Steel Development Fund Utilisation
1	2013-14	8.00	8.00	20.00	17.41
2	2014-15	7.00	2.03	20.00	17.00
3	2015-16	15.00	10.26	20.00	18.21
4	2016-17 (till Feb., 2017)	15.00	14.47	20.00	17.04

(b)&(c): As per the notification dated March, 2016 related to the import of Hot-rolled flat products of non-alloy and other alloy Steel in coils of a width of 600 mm or more falling under heading 7208 or tariff item 7225 30 90 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, the safeguard duty has been gradually reduced from the initial 20% (notified in September, 2015) to 15% (w.e.f. 14th March, 2017). The same will further reduce to 10% for a period of 6 months w.e.f. 14th September, 2017 to 13th March, 2018. This measure was taken to check the onslaught of cheap imports of steel products amid a global glut and to protect the domestic industry against the serious injury caused to "like or directly competitive products".

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